

## NPS Geologic Resources

Spectacular geologic resources exist in more than 150 national parks. They range from the world-renowned sculptured depths of Grand Canyon National Park to the awe-inspiring fossils of Dinosaur National Monument. Less frequently considered, but equally important to park ecosystems, are the commonplace geologic resources beneath our feet and the geologic processes that alter them. Geologic resources include, but are not limited to, minerals, fossils, cave and karst systems, coastlines, glaciers, volcanoes, faults, landforms, structures, fluvial systems and soils.



### Geologic Resources Division Expertise

- Caves and karst systems
- Coastal geology
- Disturbed lands restoration
- Geohazards
- Geologic Mapping
- Geomorphology/surficial geologic processes
- Minerals (mining, oil and gas, sand and gravel)
- Paleontology
- Planning, policy, permitting and regulations

**Geologic Resources Division**  
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**Denver, CO 80225**

<http://www2.nature.nps.gov/grd>



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**



**Natural Resource Program Center**

## Key Contacts

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## Geologic Resources Division



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*The Geologic Resources Division, in partnership with parks and others, works to protect, preserve, and understand the geologic resources of the National Park System and to protect park resources from the adverse affects of mineral development in and adjacent to parks.*

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## Organization

The Geologic Resources Division is a part of the Natural Resource Program Center, administered by the Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science. The Natural Resource Program Center consists of six divisions:

- Air Resources
- Biological Resources Management
- Environmental Quality
- Geologic Resources
- Natural Resource Information
- Water Resources

The Geologic Resources Division is located in Denver, Colorado, with a liaison office in Washington D.C. The National Cave and Karst Research Institute, which is part of the Division, is located in Carlsbad, New Mexico. The Division's three branches work collaboratively to support NPS managers by providing technical information, regulatory tools, and specialized services to effectively manage geologic and mineral resources.

## Education and Outreach Branch



- Establishes and maintains partnerships with external geoscience agencies and organizations.
- Develops educational and interpretive materials.
- Manages the Geoscientists-in-the-Parks Program, which provides on-site geoscience expertise to NPS units.
- Maintains geologic research-related contacts with the academic and professional community.



## Geoscience and Restoration Branch

- Provides technical expertise to park staff on geologic features, processes, and geohazards.
- Manages NPS disturbed lands restoration program, including abandoned mineral lands restoration.
- Coordinates Servicewide cave and karst, coastal geology and paleontological resource management programs.
- Assists parks with geologic hazard management concerns.



## Planning, Evaluation and Permits Branch

- Develops NPS guidance on geologic resource management policy and regulatory concerns.
- Evaluates geologic resource related legislative proposals.
- Provides support to parks developing comprehensive park planning documents and minerals management plans.
- Assists park staff with geologic research and mineral development permits inside parks and provides expertise on oil and gas, and solid minerals exploration and development proposals outside park boundaries.
- Coordinates Servicewide geologic resource inventory and mapping efforts.

